

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 098014
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 H-02 PA-02
SSM-05 /056 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WBHARRIS:RGH
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
PA/PRS - MR. CARTER
H - MR. FLATEN
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER

-----051598 180151Z /63

O 172328Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USCINCEUR
JCS WASHDC 0000

CIA WASHDC 0000
NSC WASHDC 0000
DOD
USICA

UNCLAS STATE 098014

CINCEUR FOR POLAD, TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - APRIL 17

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE
EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR APRIL 17.
FYI ONLY, SPOKESMAN TODAY WAS THOMAS RESTON.

MR. RESTON: AS PART OF OUR CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS WITH
THE PARTIES, THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAS ASKED AMBASSADOR
ATHERTON TO GO TO EGYPT AND ISRAEL FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION
ON POSSIBLE NEXT MOVES IN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS.
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AMBASSADOR ATHERTON WILL GO FIRST TO CAIRO, ARRIVING THE
END OF THIS WEEK, AND SEVERAL DAYS LATER HE PLANS TO
GO TO ISRAEL. HIS PRESENT PLAN IS TO RETURN TO
WASHINGTON THE LAST WEEK OF APRIL AFTER THIS ROUND OF
TALKS IN BOTH COUNTRIES.

Q. DO YOU KNOW WHETHER DAYAN PLANS TO COME HERE? AND,
ALSO, DO YOU KNOW WHETHER PRIME MINISTER BEGIN WILL HAVE
ANY APPOINTMENTS IN WASHINGTON?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON MR. DAYAN'S PLANS. WITH
REGARD TO MR. BEGIN'S PLANS, WE DO UNDERSTAND THAT PRIME

MINISTER BEGIN IS COMING TO THE UNITED STATES FOR THE
CELEBRATION OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAEL DURING THE
FIRST WEEK OF MAY, BUT THAT IS NOTHING IN WHICH WE ARE
DIRECTLY INVOLVED.

AS FOR HIS EXACT ITINERARY, YOU SHOULD CONTACT THE
SPONSORING ORGANIZATION AND THE ISRAELI EMBASSY. HE IS,
OF COURSE, ALWAYS A WELCOME GUEST IN THIS COUNTRY.

Q. IS IT LIKELY THAT HE WILL BE HERE AND NOT MEET WITH
PRESIDENT CARTER OR SECRETARY VANCE?

A. THAT IS POSSIBLE IF THE PRIME MINISTER COMES, BUT AT
THIS POINT WE HAVE NOTHING DEFINITE FOR YOU ON SUCH A

MEETING.

Q. IS THE ATHERTON MOVE IN RESPONSE TO OR MOTIVATED BY THE ISRAELI CABINET'S STATEMENT ON 242?

A. NO, IT'S NOT. AMBASSADOR ATHERTON'S TRIP HAS NOT BEEN PROMPTED BY ANY SINGLE EVENT. LAST WEEK, BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE TO AFRICA, THE SECRETARY DECIDED THAT IT WOULD UNCLASSIFIED

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BE BENEFICIAL FOR AMBASSADOR ATHERTON TO CONTINUE OUR CONSULTATIONS ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES THROUGH A VISIT TO THOSE COUNTRIES; AND WE THEN PROPOSED A VISIT TO THE PARTIES, WHO AGREED TO IT.

I HAVE NO DETAILED COMMENT ON MR. DAYAN'S INTERVIEW, WHOSE FULL TEXT WE ARE STUDYING. IN GENERAL, WE WANT TO EXPLORE WITH BOTH PARTIES ANY PROPOSALS FOR GETTING AROUND PRESENT DIFFICULTIES.

Q. BUT DIDN'T YOU RECEIVE ANY INFORMATION FROM THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT ON THEIR NEW INTERPRETATION OF 242?

A. ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THE CABINET DECISION?

A. YES.

A. WE HAVE LOOKED AT THE TEXT CAREFULLY. WE ARE EXPECTING A REPORT ON DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT ON IT.

I HAVE NO DETAILED COMMENT ON THE STATEMENT. WE WOULD BE PLEASED, OF COURSE, TO DISCUSS ANY POSITIONS WHICH WOULD CARRY THE NEGOTIATIONS FORWARD. WE EXPECT, AS WELL AS OTHER SUBJECTS RELATING TO THE NEGOTIATIONS, WILL COME

UP DURING AMBASSADOR ATHERTON'S VISIT OUT THERE IN THE AREA.

Q. DO YOU KNOW WHEN AMBASSADOR ATHERTON RETURNED FROM HIS LAST SHUTTLE MISSION OUT THERE.

A. I DON'T HAVE AN EXACT DATE ON THAT. WE CAN DIG THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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OUT FOR YOU. THIS IS NOT REALLY A SHUTTLE KIND OF TRIP HE'S GOING ON. HE'S JUST GOING OUT THERE TO CONSULT WITH BOTH THE PARTIES. BUT IT'S NOT GOING TO BE A PING-PONG KIND OF THING.

Q. WELL, DO YOU BELIEVE FROM WHAT HAS BEEN SAID IN THE TEXT THAT THIS ISRAELI POSITION DOES CARRY THE NEGOTIATION FORWARD OR COULD CARRY THE NEGOTIATION FORWARD?

A. I DON'T HAVE A SUBSTANTIVE JUDGMENT ON THAT FOR YOU AS YET. AS I SAY, WE'RE STILL STUDYING THE TEXT TO SEE WHAT WE CAN GET.

Q. DO YOU KNOW WHETHER PRESIDENT SADAT IS LIKELY TO BE HERE AROUND THE FIRST OF THE MONTH?

A. I DON'T THINK SO. THERE HAD BEEN SOME TALK ABOUT THAT. I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANYTHING MORE ON THIS SUBJECT THAN WHAT WE SAID LAST WEEK WHEN THE REPORT STARTED TO CIRCULATE. OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT PRESIDENT SADAT HAS NO IMMEDIATE PLANS TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES, THOUGH YOU SHOULD OBTAIN DEFINITIVE INFORMATION ABOUT THAT FROM THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE ORGANIZATION INVITING HIM TO ATLANTA. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING, AND WE HAVE CHECKED THAT, THAT HE DOES NOT HAVE ANY PLANS TO COME TO THIS COUNTRY AT THIS TIME.

Q. WALDHEIM TODAY IN BEIRUT SAID THAT HE'S NOT THAT PLEASED ABOUT THE PACE OF THE ISRAELI PULL-BACK FROM THE SOUTH. DO YOU SHARE WITH HIM HIS VIEWS?

A. I JUST READ THAT REPORT FIVE SECONDS BEFORE WALKING IN THIS ROOM AND I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON IT FOR YOU.

Q. ON HIS TRIP, YOU SAID AMBASSADOR ATHERTON IS GOING TO CONSULT A NUMBER OF ISSUES. WOULD YOU SAY HE'S GOING UNCLASSIFIED

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TO CONSULT ON THE LEBANESE ISSUE, THE PULL-BACK FROM THE SOUTH WITH THE ISRAELIS?

A. I COULDN'T RULE OUT THAT THAT WOULD COME UP. OBVIOUSLY THAT'S A MATTER OF SOME INTEREST AND I WOULD NOT

RULE OUT THAT THAT WOULD COME UP, BUT THERE'S NO ONE SPECIFIC SET OF ISSUES THAT HE IS GOING TO DISCUSS. IT'S PART OF A GENERAL VIEW OF ALL THE OUTSTANDING ISSUES ON MOVING THIS PROCESS FORWARD.

Q. SINCE THERE HAS BEEN SOME ISRAELI SOFTENING ON THE WEST BANK, WOULD AMBASSADOR ATHERTON VISIT JORDAN AS WELL TOO?

A. IT'S MY INFORMATION THAT HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY PLANS TO VISIT ANY OTHER COUNTRIES OTHER THAN THE TWO I'VE MENTIONED.

Q. IS THERE ANY CHANCE THAT THE SECRETARY WILL GO TO ISRAEL OR WILL IT JUST BE CAIRO?

A. I DON'T THINK HE HAS ANY PLANS TO GO TO ISRAEL.

Q. WILL HE MEET WITH PRESIDENT SADAT OR JUST THE FOREIGN MINISTER?

A. I THINK JUST THE FOREIGN MINISTER. IT'S REALLY JUST A REFUELLING STOP.

Q. THOSE REPORTS SATURDAY, SAYING THAT THE UNITED STATES AGREED TO SEND LARGE SHIPMENTS OF URANIUM TO SEVERAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES JUST AHEAD OF THE DEADLINE OF, UNCLASSIFIED

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I BELIEVE, THE NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION ACT -- WAS THAT STORY CORRECT?

A. YES, THE STORY WAS ESSENTIALLY FACTUAL. I THINK THERE ARE TWO KEY THINGS WHICH I WOULD LIKE TO CLEAR UP, HOWEVER:

FIRST, THE ARTICLE INDICATED THAT CERTAIN COUNTRIES DO NOT MEET ONE OF THE IMMEDIATE EXPORT CRITERIA OF THE NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION ACT AND THAT CRITERION WOULD BE U.S. CONSENT OVER ANY REPROCESSING OF U.S.-SUPPLIED FUEL. BUT THAT IS NOT TRUE. ALL OF OUR BILATERAL NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENTS NOW IN FORCE ALREADY MEET THIS CRITERION.

SECOND, A CONDITION OF CONTINUING SUPPLY AFTER 18 MONTHS IS A REQUIREMENT THAT THE RECIPIENT NATION HAVE ALL OF ITS FACILITIES UNDER IAEA SAFEGUARDS. AND THE POINT IS THAT THE ARTICLE ASSERTED THAT RECIPIENT NATIONS WOULD HAVE TO HAVE THEIR FACILITIES UNDER U.S. SAFEGUARDS. THAT IS NOT CORRECT, IT'S UNDER IAEA SAFEGUARDS.

Q. COULD YOU GO INTO THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED?

A. THE COUNTRIES CITED IN THE ARTICLE: SPAIN, INDIA, ISRAEL, EGYPT AND SOUTH AFRICA; DO NOT YET MEET THIS REQUIREMENT.

OF THOSE FIVE NATIONS, WE HAVE BILATERAL NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENTS IN FORCE ALREADY WITH: SPAIN, INDIA, AND SOUTH AFRICA. AGREEMENTS WITH ISRAEL AND EGYPT ARE STILL BEING NEGOTIATED.

2. ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS TAKEN ARE POSTED IN THE PRESS OFFICE AND FOLLOW.

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Q. ON THE PROPOSED TRUCK SALE TO LIBYA, WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE U.S. TRUCK COMPANY INVOLVED? WHAT IS THE DOLLAR VALUE OF THE PROPOSED SALE?

A. --WE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE CERTAIN PROPRIETARY CONSIDERATIONS CONNECTED WITH APPLICATIONS FOR LICENSES WHICH ONLY DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE CAN ADDRESS. WE SUGGEST YOU PUT YOUR QUESTIONS TO COMMERCE.

Q. DOES THE U.S. HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT LIBYA BUYING IDAHO WHEAT?

A. NO.

Q. DURING HIS TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE ON APRIL 4, MORRIS DRAPER, IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST, UNDERTOOK TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON LIBYANS STUDYING NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY IN THE U.S. HAS THE DEPARTMENT RESPONDED TO THAT REQUEST YET? IS THE DEPARTMENT WILLING TO MAKE ITS ANSWER AVAILABLE TO THE PRESS?

A. A RESPONSE TO CONGRESS IS BEING PREPARED; THE DATE OF ITS TRANSMISSION WILL BE MADE PUBLIC. QUESTIONS SHOULD THUS BE ADDRESSED TO THE COMMITTEE.

Q. WHEN DID WE GIVE CBU'S TO ISRAEL?

A. --WE HAVE SUPPLIED THEM OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS. APPROVALS FOR DELIVERIES DATE BACK TO AUGUST 1970.

Q. WHEN DID THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL GIVE US ASSURANCES THAT IT WOULD OBSERVE CERTAIN SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS
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GOVERNING THE USE OF THE CBU'S?

A. --ALL SALES OF CBU'S TO ISRAEL HAVE BEEN SUBJECT TO ISRAEL'S AGREEMENT TO CONDITIONS AND STIPULATIONS LIMITING THEIR USE. FORMAL WRITTEN ASSURANCES WERE GIVEN IN DECEMBER 1976.

Q. WHERE AND WHAT TYPE OF TARGETS HAVE WE RESTRICTED?

A. --AS WE HAVE SAID, WE ARE NOT GOING TO GET INTO THE DETAILS OF THE RESTRICTIONS. WE ARE, HOWEVER, DISCUSSING THIS MATTER WITH INTERESTED MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

CHRISTOPHER

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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